

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan ANNEX

City of El Cerrito

Introduction

The City of El Cerrito is a moderately-sized city in Contra Costa County, California. The City of El Cerrito is 3.9 square miles and is located in West Contra Costa County: along the I-80 Corridor, north of Berkeley, and 15 miles east of San Francisco. The City is located in the heart of earthquake country with the Hayward Fault Line running parallel with its eastern boundary. In addition, the City of El Cerrito is extremely vulnerable to landslides and wildland/urban interface fires. Additionally, the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) District's rail system bisects the City with an elevated track system and two stations. The City has a population of 23,171 people, based on the 2000 census¹. Last year, the City's budget was \$36,225,027. The City of El Cerrito is a full-service City that employs 170 people in five departments: Police Services, Fire Services, Administration, Community Development and Community Services.

The Planning Process

This process of preparing this plan was familiar to the City of El Cerrito. The City has a Safety Element to its General Plan last updated in 1999 that includes a discussion of fire, earthquake, flooding, and landslide hazards. In addition, the City routinely enforces the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements (which, since 1988, have required mitigation for identified natural hazards). The City's effort has focused on building on these pre-existing programs and identifying gaps that may lead to disaster vulnerabilities in order to work on ways to address these risks through mitigation.

Many of the activities conducted by the City were fed into the planning process for the multi-jurisdictional plan. The City participated in various ABAG workshops and meetings, including the general "kick-off" meeting. In addition, the City has provided written and oral comments on the multi-jurisdictional plan. Finally, the City provided information on facilities that are viewed as "critical" to ABAG.

Key City staff met on two occasions to identify and prioritize mitigation strategies appropriate for the City. At the first meeting, the general priorities and appropriate City departments were identified. The second meeting identified preliminary budgets and potential funding sources for strategies designed as "High" priority. The City provided the opportunity for the public to comment on the DRAFT mitigation strategies selected by City staff at the City Council meeting on October 17, 2005. The resolution adopting the plan and strategies was on the City Council agenda on November 7, 2005. The mitigation strategies will become an implementation appendix to this Safety Element.

During the City Council Meeting held on November 7, 2005, the El Cerrito City Council approved and adopted the ABAG report "Taming Natural Disasters as the City of El Cerrito's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

¹ For complete Census information on this city, see <http://www.bayareacensus.ca.gov/>.

Staff involved in this meeting included the City Manager, Assistant to the City Manager, Fire Chief, Chief of Police, Community Development Director, City Engineer Manager, Building Official and Public Works Director.

Hazard and Risk Assessment

The ABAG multi-jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, to which this is an Annex, lists nine hazards that impact the Bay Area, five related to earthquakes (faulting, shaking, earthquake-induced landslides, liquefaction, and tsunamis) and four related to weather (flooding, landslides, wildfires, and drought). These hazards also impact this community, with no exceptions.

While the City has undertaken a number of general hazard mapping activities since the first Safety Element was prepared by the City, all of these maps are less detailed and are not as current as those shown on the ABAG website at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/>.

Information on disasters declared in Contra Costa County is at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/disaster-history.html>.

The City examined the hazard exposure of City urban land based on the information on ABAG's website at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/pickdbh2.html>. Of the 2,325 urban acres in the City,

- ◆ Earthquake faulting – The Hayward Fault is an active fault that runs parallel to the eastern border of El Cerrito. While it has the potential, the Hayward Fault has not produced a major quake since 1868. Moreover, there are 11 other active or potentially active faults in the region. Based on CGS fault data there is 251 acres with the CGS fault study zone.
- ◆ Earthquake shaking – 2,323 acres are in the highest two categories of shaking potential, in large part because the Hayward fault runs next to the eastern portion of the City.
- ◆ Earthquake-induced landslides – the California Geological Survey has not completed mapping of this hazard in the City of El Cerrito. The City of El Cerrito supports the CGS efforts to complete mapping for the City of El Cerrito in the near future.
- ◆ Earthquake liquefaction – 657 acres are in areas of moderate, high, or very high liquefaction susceptibility.
- ◆ Tsunamis – While tsunamis may be a hazard in the City of El Cerrito, the mapping of the inundation area has not been completed at this time.
- ◆ Flooding – 37 acres are in the 100-year flood plain, while an additional 4 acres are in other flood-prone areas.
- ◆ Landslides – 188 acres are in areas of existing landslides.
- ◆ Wildfires – 71 acres are subject to high, very high, or extreme wildfire threat (because of the urban nature of the City), but 1,872 acres are in wildland-urban interface threat areas.
- ◆ Dam Inundation – 130 acres are subject to dam inundation.
- ◆ Drought – all 2,325 acres are subject to drought.

The City also examined the hazard exposure of infrastructure based on the information on ABAG's website at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/pickdbh2.html>. Of the 77 miles of roadway in the City,

- ◆ Earthquake faulting – The Hayward Fault is an active fault that runs parallel to the eastern border of El Cerrito. While it has the potential, the Hayward Fault has not produced a major quake since 1868. Moreover, there are 11 other active or potentially active faults in the region. Based on CGS fault data there is 6 miles of roadway in the CGS fault study zone.
- ◆ Earthquake shaking – All 77 miles of roadway are in the highest two categories of shaking potential.
- ◆ Earthquake-induced landslides – the California Geological Survey has not completed mapping of this hazard in the City of El Cerrito. The City of El Cerrito supports the CGS efforts to complete mapping for the City of El Cerrito in the near future.
- ◆ Earthquake liquefaction – 25 miles of roadway are in areas of moderate, high, or very high liquefaction susceptibility.
- ◆ Tsunamis – While tsunamis may be a hazard in the City of Termite, the mapping of the inundation area has not been completed at this time.
- ◆ Flooding – 2 miles of roadway are in the 100-year flood plain.
- ◆ Landslides – 5 miles of roadway are in areas of existing landslides.
- ◆ Wildfires – one mile of roadway are subject to high, very high, or extreme wildfire threat, 60 miles of roads are in wildland-urban interface threat areas.
- ◆ Dam Inundation – 4 miles of roadway is in an area subject to dam inundation.
- ◆ Drought – is not a hazard for roadways.

Finally, the City examined the hazard exposure of critical health care facilities, schools, and city-owned buildings based on the information on ABAG's website at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/pickcrit.html>. Of the critical facilities in the City,

- ◆ Earthquake faulting – The Hayward Fault is an active fault that runs parallel to the eastern border of El Cerrito. While it has the potential, the Hayward Fault has not produced a major quake since 1868. Moreover, there are 11 other active or potentially active faults in the region. Based on CGS fault data there are 2 City-owned critical facilities in the CGS fault study zone.
- ◆ Earthquake shaking – all 5 health care facilities, all 12 schools, all 21 critical facilities (including all 16 City-owned), and all 17 bridges and interchanges are in the highest two categories of shaking potential.
- ◆ Earthquake-induced landslides – the California Geological Survey has not completed mapping of this hazard in the City of El Cerrito. The City of El Cerrito supports the CGS efforts to complete mapping for the City of El Cerrito in the near future.
- ◆ Earthquake liquefaction – all 5 health care facilities, 3 schools, 9 critical facilities (including 5 City-owned), and 14 bridges and interchanges are in areas of moderate, high, or very high liquefaction susceptibility.
- ◆ Tsunamis – While tsunamis may be a hazard in the City of El Cerrito, including to critical facilities, the mapping of the inundation area has not been completed at this time. However, do to the location, Tsunamis are not considered to be a hazard to the City of El Cerrito.

- ◆ Flooding – no critical health care facilities, schools, or city-owned facilities are in either the 100-year flood plain or in other flood-prone areas.
- ◆ Landslides – one school and one City-owned facility are in areas of existing landslides.
- ◆ Wildfires – one City-owned facility is in the wildland-threat areas. However, all 5 health care facilities, 10 of 12 schools, 16 of 21 critical facilities (including 13 of 16 City-owned), and 6 of 17 bridges and interchanges are located in the wildland-urban interface threat areas.
- ◆ Dam Inundation – 3 of 5 critical health care facilities, 2 of 21 critical facilities (including 1 of 15 City-owned) and 1 of 17 bridges and interchanges are in an area subject to dam inundation.
- ◆ Drought – Drought will not affect city buildings directly. However, the City does not operate a water-supply distribution system.

In spite of the areas of the City located in flood-prone areas, the City of El Cerrito has only two repetitive loss properties in the City based on the information at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/pickflood.html>.

The City plans to work with ABAG during 2005 to improve the risk assessment information being compiled by ABAG by providing information on unreinforced masonry buildings and soft-story apartments located in the City.

Drought, though a potential problem in the City, is not fully assessed. The City will work with ABAG and various water supply agencies on this issue.

The City plans to work with ABAG to develop specific information about the kind and level of damage to buildings, infrastructure, and critical facilities which might result from any of the hazards previously noted. The ABAG Annex states that ABAG will be doing this work in 2005 through early 2006.

As these impacts are not fully developed, the City has reviewed the hazards identified and ranked the hazards based on past disasters and expected future impacts. The conclusion is that earthquakes (particularly shaking & liquefaction), flooding, wildfire, and landslides (including unstable earth) pose a significant risk for potential loss.

Mitigation Activities and Priorities

As a participant in the ABAG multi-jurisdictional planning process, City of El Cerrito staff helped in the development and review of the comprehensive list of mitigation strategies in the overall multi-jurisdictional plan. The list was discussed at a meeting that included City Manager, Assistant to the City Manager, Fire Chief, Chief of Police, Community Development Director, City Engineer Manager, Building Official and Public Works Director on March 22, 2005. At the meeting, all of the mitigation strategies were reviewed. The tentative decision on priority was made based on a variety of criteria, not simply on an economic cost-benefit analysis. These criteria include being technically and administratively feasible, politically acceptable, socially appropriate, legal, economically sound, and not harmful to the environment or our heritage.

Over time, we are committed to developing better hazard and risk information to use in making those trade-offs. We are not trying to create a disaster-proof region, but a disaster-resistant one. In addition, several of the strategies are existing City programs.

These draft priorities were submitted to the City Manager for review. The draft priorities were then provided to the City Council on October 17, 2005. The public was provided with an opportunity to comment on the DRAFT priorities. The final strategies (as shown in the attached Table) will become an *Implementation Appendix* to the City's *Safety Element*.

In addition, the City examined the hazard exposure information to City-owned critical facilities supplied by ABAG. Moreover, the City examined the hazard information obtained from a 2002 facilities assessment which determined that several City-owned critical facilities were in significant need of seismic retrofitting. Therefore, based on a combination of construction type, age, and shaking exposure to several City-owned critical facilities the City plans to apply for a Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant to retrofit all City-owned critical facilities vulnerable to damage from natural disasters.

The Plan Maintenance and Update Process

The Fire Department will ensure that *monitoring* of this Annex will occur. The plan will be monitored on an on-going basis. However, the major disasters affecting our community, legal changes, notices from ABAG as the lead agency in this process, and other triggers will be used. Finally, the Annex will be a discussion item on the agenda of the meeting of City department heads at least once a year in April. At that meeting, the department heads will focus on *evaluating* the Annex in light of technological and political changes during the past year or other significant events. This group will be responsible for determining if the plan should be updated.

The City of El Cerrito is committed to reviewing and updating this plan annex at least once every five years, as required by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. The City Fire Marshal or Disaster Preparedness Coordinator will contact ABAG four years after this plan is approved to ensure that ABAG plans to undertake the plan update process. If so, the City again plans to participate in the multi-jurisdictional plan. If ABAG is unwilling or unable to act as the lead agency in the multi-jurisdictional effort, other agencies will be contacted, including the County's Office of Emergency Services. Counties should then work together to identify another regional forum for developing a multi-jurisdictional plan.

The *public* will continue to be involved whenever the plan is updated, and as appropriate during the monitoring and evaluation process. Prior to adoption of updates, the City will provide the opportunity for the public to comment on the updates. A public notice will be posted prior to the meeting to announce the comment period and meeting logistics.